

Commissioner for Patents
Page 13

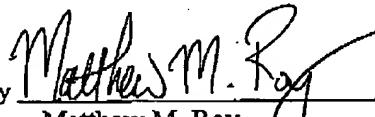
Serial No.: 09/722,339

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-49 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner has objected to the expression "(an integer, $N > 1$)" and to the expression "(an integer, $M > 1$)" in claims 1, 13, 25, 37 and 44. In response thereto, Applicant has amended these claims by deleting the allegedly indefinite expressions and replacing them with ", where N is an integer greater than 1," and ", where M is an integer greater than 1," respectively. It is respectfully submitted that these amended claims are now fully in compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Office promptly issue a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

Roland A. SMITH et al.

By 
Matthew M. Roy
Registration No. 48,074
Attorney for Applicant

MMR/sw

Address: 1981 McGill College Avenue, Suite 1600
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2Y3